

# AgriBiz!

SC Agricultural Education Magazine

3 2010



**Clemson President Jim Barker  
operates the Ag Simulator at this  
year's CAFLS Ag Tailgate**



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AG TAILGATE**

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**John W. Parris**  
State Director,  
Office of Public Affairs  
Editor

# AgriBiz!

Vol. XI Issue 3 2010

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Troy Dobbins-Secretary, Townville, SC  
Holly Benenhaley-Vice President, Sumter, SC  
Scott Sherard-Vice President, Abbeville, SC  
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*The scenic background photograph is provided by the  
American Soybean Association and Bob Callanan*



# SC FFA MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN CLEMSON AG TAILGATE EVENT

Hundreds of FFA members, advisors, FFA alumni, parents and other supporters from throughout South Carolina participated in Clemson University's Tiger Ag Tailgate on Saturday, October 16, 2010.

The event, staged in the Fike Recreation Center on the Clemson campus, was co-sponsored by the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences, Clemson University Agricultural Alumni Board of Directors and financial contributors including AgSouth Farm Credit, ArborOne Farm Credit, Chick-fil-A of Clemson, McLeod Farms of McBee, SC Farm Bureau, Southern States Cooperative and Utz Quality Foods., Inc.

State FFA Secretary **Troy Dobbins**, a member of the Pendleton FFA Chapter, and State FFA Vice President **Scott Sherard**, a member of the Calhoun Falls Charter School, presented President and Mrs. Jim Barker a beautiful gift basket of agricultural products on behalf of McLeod Farms of McBee, the SC FFA Association and the Clemson's College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences.

President Barker welcomed the near-record attendance to the Tiger Ag Tailgate which featured attractive and informative departmental and club displays highlighting the agriculture and natural resource majors available at Clemson University.

Dr. Tom Scott, Interim Dean of the College, joined in welcoming the FFA members and other guests to Clemson University. Participants in the standing-room only event enjoyed an early lunch prior to the kick-off of the Clemson-Maryland football game which Clemson won handily.

State FFA President **Katie Simpson** of Abbeville, joined John W. Parris, state director of public affairs with the SC FFA organization, in the President's Box during the game. Katie also had an opportunity to meet and talk with Clemson Provost Dr. Dori Helms.



*State FFA Secretary **Troy Dobbins** (left), presents Mrs. **Marcia Barker** and Clemson President **Jim Barker** a gift basket at the Tiger Ag Tailgate as State FFA Vice President **Scott Sherard** assists.*



*State FFA President **Katie Simpson** is welcomed to Clemson University by Dr. **Thomas R. Scott**, Interim Dean, College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences.*



*Dr. **Laurie C. Lawson** (left), State Executive Director, USDA Farm Service Agency, with Dr. **Louis B. Lynn**, Trustee of Clemson University, at the Tiger Ag Tailgate.*



*Clemson University FFA Vice President **Ashley King** (left), Treasurer **Sommer Kitts** and President **Waylon Priester** at the Collegiate FFA Display at Ag Tailgate.*



Dear Friends:

I write today to address some important questions about Clemson University's historic mission and continuing commitment to agriculture, forestry and natural resources. That commitment is unchanged. It is literally what we were founded to do, and Clemson intends to strengthen our efforts toward this mission.

We all know, however, that these industries are changing rapidly. Changing, too, is the way our state and federal governments fund – or don't fund – our education, research, extension and regulatory programs to serve this vital economic sector. These truths demand that Clemson plan a future that is very different from our past.

Clemson is again engaged in a University-wide strategic planning process to prepare for the next decade. The process began with a town meeting on March 30, 2010, and will conclude with completion of a reaccreditation self-study through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

Like the rest of the University, Public Service Activities (PSA) and the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences (CAFLS) are engaged in long-term strategic planning to prepare for the future, with an accelerated timetable because of the severe state budget cuts to PSA.

Since 2008, PSA's state appropriation has been reduced by 46%. This cut is similar to that of several other state agriculture and natural resources agencies but it leaves PSA with the same dollar amount as 1985, without adjusting for inflation. While every land-grant university is suffering state funding cuts due to the economic downturn Clemson's cut is one of the largest in the nation.

**As a result, we can no longer do business as we have always done.** Our goal is not simply to manage state budget cuts. It is to make transformational changes that will allow Clemson to thrive in a new economic environment as a more independently funded public university.

As a separately funded state agency dedicated to public service and research, PSA receives no revenue from tuition. In fact, PSA research and extension fund 40% of the faculty and staff in the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences. The remainder is funded by the University's Education and General (E&G) budget. CAFLS embodies Clemson's land-grant mission of teaching, research and public service.



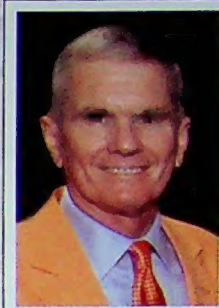
Clemson University's investment in agriculture, forestry and natural resources teaching, research, extension and regulatory programs is our largest investment in any industry sector. We will continue to build strong programs that support the state's largest industry – agriculture, forestry and natural resources – which contributes more than \$34 billion to South Carolina's economy.

Because of the importance of agribusiness to the state, and because it is in Clemson's DNA, here is what we are doing to ensure a viable statewide program:



# COMMITMENT TO AGRICULTURE

1. **State funding for PSA will be focused on the core mission of agriculture, forestry and natural resources research, extension and regulatory programs.** This means that many important and valuable programs will lose PSA funding as they move to generated or external funds. There will be programs that must become self sustaining. This is a conscious, intentional decision to ensure that Clemson maintains a strong, statewide PSA network to support the vital agribusiness economic sector.
2. **We are not closing any Extension county offices or any of the five research and education centers across the state.** All counties will have coverage by Extension agents: however, most agents will be covering multiple counties. We also are moving to new operating procedures to provide customer service in all counties with significantly fewer administrative staff. As funding becomes available in the future, we will hire additional agriculture, forestry and natural resources scientists for Extension county offices and for the research and education centers.
3. **We are refocusing CAFLS educational offerings to better serve current and future needs of agribusiness** in such areas as precision agriculture, biomedicine, biotechnology, and forestry and natural resources management.



As one of 70 land-grant universities in the national system under the USDA, Clemson will continue to proudly fulfill our federal mandate to conduct research and extension programs that support agriculture, forestry and natural resources. After all, it is what we were founded to do by Thomas Green Clemson.

Sincerely,

James F. Barker, FAIA  
President



*Clemson University President Jim Barker and State FFA President Katie Simpson in President's Box during Clemson-Maryland Football Game.*



*Dr. Doris R. Helms, Clemson University Provost, visits with State FFA President Katie Simpson in the President's Box during the Clemson-Maryland Football Game.*



*State FFA President Katie Simpson greets US Senator Lindsey Graham in President's Box at Clemson.*



The SC Agricultural Educators Association met at Clemson, July 27-29, 2010, with headquarters at the Madren Center and the James F. Martin Inn. A number of technical sessions and a luncheon were held at Pendleton High School.

## STATE OFFICERS ELECTED

Officers elected for 2010-11 are **Amanda Nichols** (at right), president, Saluda High School; **Bert Beasley**, president-elect; East Clarendon High School; **Barry Hawkins**, secretary-treasurer, Edisto High School; and **Mark Earle**, past president, Hillcrest High School. Vice presidents elected include **Genie Archer**, Piedmont Region, R.D. Anderson Applied Technology Center; **Frank R. Stover**, Mid State Region, Pelion High School; **Aaron Miles**, Pee Dee Region, Latta High School; and **Pat Black**, Lower State Region, Branchville. Associate vice presidents named were **Lisa B. Stansell**, Piedmont Region, Golden Strip Career Center; **Josh Waters**, Mid State Region, Newberry County Career Center; **Nate Bellamy**, Pee Dee Region, Loris High School; and **Kevin Sox**, Lower State Region, Aiken County Career Center.



## AWARDS PRESENTED

A number of prestigious state awards were presented to Agricultural Educators and friends including the: **John W. Parris Agricultural Leadership Award** to AgFirst Farm Credit Bank President and CEO **Andy Lowrey**, Columbia, SC; Outstanding Agricultural Educator **W. Pat Earle**, McBee High School, McBee, SC; Outstanding Young Agricultural Educator **Tim Keown**, Crescent High School, Iva, SC; Outstanding Agricultural Education Program, **B.J. Skelton Career Center**, Easley, SC; Outstanding Adult Agricultural Education Program, **Chester County Career Center**, Chester, SC; Outstanding Agricultural Educator Mentor, **Allen Williams**, Wagener-Salley High School, Wagener, SC; Teacher Turn the Key Award, **Ashley Granata**, Anderson District Five Career Campus, Anderson; Outstanding Service, **Joe Wilson**, Aiken, SC.

Agricultural Educators recognized who retired in 2010: **Barry Edmonds**, Dixie High School, Due West, SC; **Stanley Gibson**, West Oak High School, Westminster, SC; and **Dan Henderson**, Strom Thurmond Technology Center, Johnston, SC.

### JOHN W. PARRIS AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

Association President **Mark Earle** (left) presented the award to **F.A. 'Andy' Lowrey**, president and CEO of AgFirst Farm Credit Bank.



### OUTSTANDING AGRICULTURAL EDUCATOR



**W. Pat Earle**  
McBee

### OUTSTANDING YOUNG AGRICULTURAL EDUCATOR



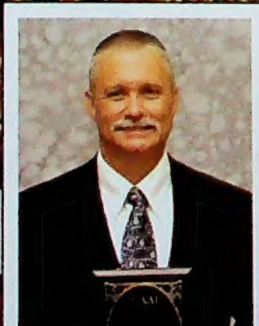
**Tim Keown**  
Crescent

### OUTSTANDING ADULT PROGRAM



**Kip Beam**  
Chester

### OUTSTANDING MENTOR AWARD



**Allen Williams**  
Wagener-Salley

### OUTSTANDING PROGRAM

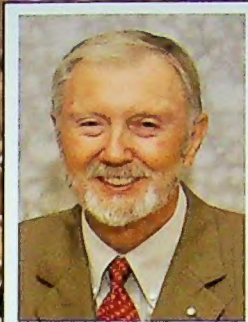


**Steve McCannon** (left) and **Margaret Shelton** with Center Director **Leonard Williams**.  
B.J. Skelton Career Center



# HELD AT CLEMSON UNIVERSITY IN JULY

## OUTSTANDING SERVICE



**Joe Wilson  
Aiken**



*SC Agricultural Educators Association President Mark Earle (left) with Dr. Thomas R. Scott, Interim Dean, College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences at Clemson University; and Dr. Tom Dobbins, Program Coordinator and Professor of Agricultural Education, Clemson University.*



*Pendleton FFA Advisor Blake Berry and State Champion FFA Floriculture Team members Katelyn McIntyre, Angel Woody and Talena Stewart display the beautiful "blue and gold" floral arrangement they created for the SC Agricultural Educators Conference.*

## TEACHER TURN THE KEY AWARD



**Ashley Granata  
Anderson**



*Neil Devaney (left) with Jaderloon Greenhouse Engineering and Ag Educators Cleveland Jackson, Union County Career Center; Tommy Harmon, Lexington Technology Center; Brandon Stiglbauer, Strom Thurmond Technology Center, Johnston; and Frank Stover, Pelion High School; during one of the conference technical sessions.*



*Dr. Tom Dobbins and Hugh Bland (standing), Director of Agricultural Programs at Piedmont Technical College's Saluda Campus, conduct a technical session for Agricultural Educators Derrick Cooper, Mrs. Betty Jackson, Brenda Wright, Josh McCall, Tim Maye, Lee Mayfield and Tommy Harmon.*

## AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS RECOGNIZED FOR PARTICIPATION IN FFA VOTER REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN

Agricultural Educators recognized at the conference for their leadership in the SC FFA Voter Registration Campaign are **Blake Berry** (left), Pendleton; **Michael Crim**, Ridge Spring-Monetta; **Glenn Stevens**, Belton-Honea Path; **Meghan Wood**, Aiken; with **Ronald P. Townsend**, Education Associate Liaison for High Schools that Work, Anderson; and Agricultural Educators **Mindy Sandifer**, Barnwell Technology Center, Blackville; **Audie Green** and **Steve McGaha**, Anderson I & II Technology Center, Williamston; **Pat Black**, Branchville; and **W. Pat Earle**, McBee.

The campaign was coordinated by John W. Parris, State Director of Public Affairs with the SC FFA Association in





# SC YOUNG FARMER-AGRIBUSINESS

The SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association Educational Tour was held in Anderson County and surrounding areas on July 23-24, 2010. Hosted by the Williamston Chapter, the event was planned and coordinated by **Steve McGaha**, Agricultural Education Instructor at the Anderson I & II Technology Center, Williamston, SC.

Tour stops included a visit to Happy Cow Creamery near Pelzer, SC, owned and operated by Tom Trantham, Jr., and family. A show place for sustainable agriculture, the farm includes a dairy herd that grazes on land planted to grass and hay and grown with no chemical fertilizers, a creamery where the milk is pasteurized and bottled, and an on-the-farm store where a myriad of agricultural products are sold...all grown without the use of chemicals. The Trantham family has also incorporated Agri-tourism as part of their business operation.

Another interesting stop was at Callham Orchards near Williamston, SC. Owned and operated by Bobby and Andy Callahan, the 120 acre operation produces peaches, apples, figs, pumpkins and gourds. A Homemade Ice Cream Parlor and country store filled with fresh fruits, vegetables and other products is a popular spot for customers. The Callahan family is also involved in Agri-tourism as a part of their business.

The Merritt Brothers Tree Farm near Easley, SC, was also an interesting stop on the tour. The farm is a 400 plus acre operation producing field grown plant materials which are machined dug from 22 inch to 90 inch root ball size by a 90 inch tree spade for delivery to a job site. Larger material may be moved by their experienced staff. Co-owner Eugene Merritt is a former state FFA president and presently serves on the board of directors of AgFirst Farm Credit Bank which serves 15 states and Puerto Rico.

Another interesting tour stop was at the Split Creek Farm Goat Dairy owned and operated by Evin J. Evans and Patricia Bell of Anderson, SC, who have been commercial Grade A producers since 1985. In 1990, production progressed from 4-gallon vat batches to its current 150-gallon vat operation. Among the products produced and available for purchase at the farm include goat milk cheese, goat milk fudge, goat milk yogurt and goat milk soap. Gift baskets and folk art are also available. The farm was a Gold Medal winner at the 2010 World Championship Cheese Contest in Madison, Wisconsin. (continued on page 7)

## Trantham Welcomes McGaha and Tour Participants



*Tom Trantham (left), owner of Happy Cow Creamery, welcomes Steve McGaha, Agricultural Education Instructor at Anderson I & II Technology Center and tour coordinator, and tour group to his farm. Agricultural Education Instructor John Herron is in background.*



*Tour participants enjoy a refreshment break at the Merritt Brothers Tree Farm*

*A large tree spade in operation on the Merritt Brothers Tree Farm.*



*John Herron, Agricultural Education Instructor at Berea High School, takes a refreshment break in the Callahan Orchards Ice Cream Parlor with daughter, Alicia; wife, Connie; and Isaiah and Presley Wigington, son and daughter of Travelers Rest Agricultural Education Instructor Jason Wigington and wife Stacey*





# TOUR HELD IN THE PIEDMONT REGION

The Dean Hunter Farms near Williamston, SC, was another highlight of the tour. The farm has a selection of antique tractors dating back to the early 1900's and the largest selection of stationary steam engines in South Carolina. Clutch, diesel, gasoline and kerosene engines as well as an antique automobile museum can be found on the farm. A double decker bus is available for rides over the farm.

Co-sponsors of the tour included: Anderson County Council, Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, Live Oak Farms, AgSouth Farm Credit, Merritt Tree Farm, Callahams Orchard, Happy Cow Creamery, Dean Hunter Farms, Split Creek Goat Dairy, Biscuit Barn in Honea Path, SC, Stoney's Bar-B-Que, Chadwick's Restaurant of Honea Path, SC, and the Williamston, Crescent, Belton-Honea Path and Pendleton Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapters.

Special appreciation is due Rusty Burns, Anderson County Administrator, and Angela Stringer, public information officer for Anderson County. Also due grateful appreciation for his support is Ron Wilson, a member of Anderson County Council and owner of the certified naturally grown family-operated Live Oak Farms in Woodruff, SC. Mr. Wilson is also a leader in the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association which promotes organic agriculture. Live Oak Farms and the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association were title sponsors of the tour. Additionally, special appreciation is extended to Dr. Jere Kirkley, Director of Anderson I & II Technology Center, for the use of buses and the facilities for the tour.

*The Antique Automobile Museum at Dean Hunter Farms*



*A steam engine in operation at the Dean Hunter Farms*

*A display of goat milk products for purchase at Split Creek Farm*



*Goats at Split Creek Farm get personal attention daily and it pays off in quality of milk.*



*Jeremy Holtzclaw (left), president-elect of the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, Iva, SC; with State Representative Michael W. Gambrell of Honea Path, SC; and Steve McGaha, Agricultural Education Instructor at Anderson I & II Technology Center.*



*Steve McGaha (left) with Anderson County Councilman Ron Wilson and State Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association President Wes Ulmer of Lodge, SC.*



*Andy Callaham with Agricultural Educators Brenda Wright (left) and Mindy Sandifer admiring yellow freestone Contender peaches in the Callaham Farm Market.*



*Derek Foltz, an employee at Callaham Orchards Ice Cream Parlor during the summer, serves ice cream to happy tour participants.*



*Tour coordinator Steve McGaha addresses participants at the banquet session held at Anderson I & II Technology Center in Williamston.*



# PENDLETON FFA MEMBERS AND ADVISORS HONORED AT RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Agricultural, educational and governmental leaders joined parents and other friends and supporters of the Pendleton FFA Chapter at the high school on September 20, 2010, for a community-wide recognition reception and program in their honor sponsored, in part, by AgSouth Farm Credit.

The event was held to recognize and pay tribute to Pendleton FFA members and advisors **Blake Berry** and **Josh Murdock** for an all-time record of accomplishment in FFA educational competitions, awards and honors during one school year.

"The achievements of these students may be a national record and definitely offers ample evidence that 'top-o-the-line' classroom instruction and state-of-the-art hands-on laboratory experiences are being provided them by Berry and Murdock," said John W. Parris, state director of public affairs with the SC FFA organization.

**Miriam Pflug**, marketing manager of AgSouth Farm Credit in Spartanburg, praised the students for their success in FFA competitions and "demonstrating so effectively that agri-science and technology education is an important part of a well-rounded curriculum." She emphasized AgSouth Farm Credit's role in supporting a strong and viable agricultural industry and encouraged the students to consider a professional career in agricultural finance.

**Dr. Thomas R. Scott**, interim dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences at Clemson University, said he was impressed with the caliber of students in the FFA program. "Their leadership and commitment makes for a better college student and one we welcome at Clemson University," he said.

**Dr. Laurie C. Lawson**, state executive director of the USDA Farm Service Agency, congratulated the FFA members and advisors on achieving such an enviable record of accomplishment. "Successful agri-science departments like the one here at Pendleton inspire us to continue sponsoring the National FFA Chapter Awards and Recognition Program," he said.

**Dr. Lee D'Andrea**, superintendent of Anderson School District Four, said the district leaders appreciate what these FFA members have accomplished. "You can count on my continued support and that of the school board for agri-science education and the FFA in the years to come," she emphasized.

FFA President **Mackenzie Mullikin** and State FFA Secretary **Troy Dobbins** addressed the attendees and introduced FFA Advisors Berry and Murdock who recognized the state winning teams and individuals that would represent South Carolina in national finals at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis in October.

The accomplishments of Pendleton FFA members include seven state career development event championships, two state proficiency awards, three State FFA Degrees, a regional Star Farmer, a state FFA officer and an American FFA Degree recipient. Additionally, there was one state runner-up in another career development event, three regional award winners in other competitions, runner-up in the Miss SC FFA Pageant and a number of championship awards in regional and state livestock showmanship competitions.

The recognition program was coordinated by Mr. Parris with valuable assistance from Mrs. **Mary Mullikin**, a local teacher and FFA parent who chaired the arrangements committee; Principal **Heather Gordon**; **Mike Echols**, director of Athletic Grounds at Clemson University who served as master of ceremonies; Mr. Berry and Mr. Murdock.

News media representatives **Vince Jackson**, a writer for the Anderson, SC *Independent-Mail*, and **Paul Brown**, a legendary reporter for WYFF-TV in Greenville and an Anderson Radio Talk Show host, gave the event excellent coverage. Mr. Parris recognized Mrs. **Willie Mae Mattress**, editor of the *Hometown* section of the Anderson *Independent-Mail* as the Outstanding FFA News Reporter in South Carolina from a daily newspaper. Pendleton FFA President Mackenzie Mullikin presented Mrs. Mattress the Honorary FFA Chapter Degree of Membership in recognition of her support of the Pendleton Chapter.



*AgSouth Farm Credit Marketing Manager **Miriam Pflug** (left) with **Mackenzie Mullikin**, president of the Pendleton FFA Chapter; **Troy Dobbins**, a member of the Pendleton Chapter and State Secretary of the SC FFA; FFA Advisor **Josh Murdock** and FFA Advisor **Blake Berry**.*



***Mackenzie Mullikin** with **Mrs. Mattress***



## SC FFA OFFICERS SIMPSON AND DOBBINS ATTEND WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

State FFA Officers  
**Katie Simpson**  
of Abbeville, SC,  
and **Troy Dobbins**  
of Townville, SC,  
participated in  
the National FFA  
Organization-  
sponsored State  
Presidents'  
Conference in  
Washington, DC,  
July 27-30, 2010.



*State Secretary **Troy Dobbins** and  
State President **Katie Simpson** (seated)  
with 2010 National FFA Officers  
**Levy Randolph** (left), **Chelsea Doss**,  
**Bethany Bohnenblust**, **Alexandria  
Henry**, **Randa Braune** and **Chase  
Rose** in Washington, DC.*

Simpson and Dobbins  
visited members of  
Congress from South  
Carolina and heard top  
governmental officials  
in the US Department  
of Agriculture and the  
US Department of Education discuss the future of agriculture and  
education. They attended a number of training sessions including how  
to be successful advocates for Agricultural Education and the FFA.

They also visited a number of historic landmarks in the  
Washington area including the Jefferson Memorial, Arlington  
National Cemetery, Lincoln Memorial and the FDR Memorial..

The conference was sponsored by Dow AgroSciences and Archer  
Daniels Midland (ADM) as a special project of the National  
FFA Foundation.

## SC FFA MEMBERS AND ADVISORS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Fourteen SC FFA  
members and four  
advisors attended the  
Washington Leadership  
Conference in  
Washington, DC, July  
5-11, 2010. Chapters  
represented include  
Abbeville, Aiken,  
Belton-Honea Path,  
Beaufort-Jasper, Edisto,  
Pendleton and Ridge  
Spring-Monetta. SC  
Advisors in attendance  
were **Barry Hawkins**,  
Edisto, who coordinates  
the trip; **Blake Berry**,  
Pendleton; **Michael Crim**,  
Ridge Spring-Monetta; and  
**Robin Beasley**, Beaufort-  
Jasper.



*SC participants in Washington  
FFA Leadership Conference are  
(left to right) **Michael Crim**, **Misty  
Sturkie**, **Taylor Snipes**, **Kaitlin  
Smith**, **Lisa Donburg**, **Barry  
Hawkins**, **Will New**, **Brittany  
Sumner**, **Wilbur Cutter**, **Richard  
Bramlette**, **Cole Ashbill**, **James  
Cochran**, **Angle Woody**, **Weston  
Link**, **Blake Berry**, **Aaron  
Linley** and **Robin Beasley**. **Zach  
MacDougall** was not present when  
photo was made.*

The students and  
advisors visited the offices  
of US Congressman  
Gresham Barrett and Joe  
Wilson and participated in  
leadership training sessions and service learning projects.

The conference is sponsored by Monsanto as a special project  
of the National FFA Foundation.

## CRESCENT FFA PRESIDENT LOFTIS ELECTED GOVERNOR OF PALMETTO BOYS STATE

**Perry Loftis**, a senior at Crescent  
High School, Iva, SC, and president of  
the Crescent FFA Chapter, was elected  
Governor of the 2010 Palmetto Boys  
State event held in Columbia, June 13-  
19. The announcement was made at a  
ceremony at the State House on June 18.

Sponsored by the American Legion,  
Palmetto Boys State is a unique and  
exciting week-long program designed to  
teach young men about government and  
the politics involved.

An active member of the Crescent  
FFA Chapter, Perry has been recognized  
as a state winner in the Specialty Crops Production Proficiency Award  
in 2009 and a member of the State Championship Tractor Operation  
and Safety team that same year. He was named recipient of the  
Chapter Star Farmer award in 2010.

The National FFA Organization has featured Perry in the News  
section of *FFA NATION* since July and he received a letter of  
congratulations from National FFA Chief Executive Officer Dr.  
Dwight Armstrong.

The son of Shea and Julie Loftis of Starr, SC, Perry's FFA advisors  
are Tim Keown and Roger Estridge, agricultural education instructors  
at Crescent High School.



## SALUDA GROUP PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS



Saluda County Young Farmer-Agribusiness Chapter President  
**Russell Miller** (left) congratulates 2010 scholarship recipients  
**Creighton Price**, **Drake Yon**, **Sally Yon** and **Brian Bushey**.

The presentations were made during the opening session of the  
nationally recognized Truck and Tractor Pull at the Young Farmer  
Stadium in August. The scholarships were valued at \$1500 each.  
**Amanda Nichols**, Agricultural Education instructor at Saluda High  
School, serves as the Young Farmer-Agribusiness Chapter advisor.



Wesley Ulmer of Lodge, SC, president of the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, presented college scholarships to Ridge Spring-Monetta FFA member **Drake Yon** (top left), a Clemson University student majoring in Agricultural Economics; Saluda FFA Alumnus **Creighton Price** (top middle), an Ag Mechanization and Business major at Clemson; Calhoun Falls FFA member and state FFA officer **Scott Sherard** (top right), an Agricultural Education major at Piedmont Technical College; Union FFA member and former state FFA officer **Lena Freeman** (bottom left); Belton-Honea Path FFA member **Caycee Jones** (bottom middle), an Agricultural Education major at Clemson; and Crescent FFA member **Cory Watt** (bottom right), an Agricultural Economics major at Clemson.

Mr. Ulmer, a recipient of the Honorary State FFA Degree, made the presentation of the scholarships valued at \$1000 each during the State FFA Convention held at Clemson University in June.



## FRAVEL RECEIVES TOP TEACHING AWARD

Dr. Philip M. Fravel, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Education in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering at Clemson University, has been named recipient of the Teaching Award of Excellence for 2010. The award was presented by Dr. Thomas R. Scott, interim dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences, at a faculty luncheon in October. The award recognizes an outstanding faculty member in the college with eight or more years of teaching experience.



Dr. Fravel, a graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University with BS, MS and Ph.D degrees in Agricultural and Technical Education, taught agricultural education in high school for fifteen years before returning to graduate school. He was employed by Clemson University in 2001 where he served a joint appointment as Agricultural Education faculty member and Associate State Director of Agricultural Education until 2006 when he became a full time faculty member.

A nationally recognized leader in Agricultural Education and recipient of numerous regional and national honors including the Honorary American FFA Degree, Dr. Fravel serves as faculty advisor to the Alpha Tau Alpha Honor Society, the Collegiate FFA Organization and Alpha Gamma Rho national agricultural fraternity.

## CLOVER FFA ALUMNUS... HOLBROOK RESEARCHING ALGAE FOR ALTERNATIVE FUEL

Former state FFA president **K. Flint Holbrook** of Clover, SC, is actively involved in researching algae as an alternative fuel source at Oklahoma State University.

Upon graduation from high school in 2009 with nearly \$100,000 in scholarships, Holbrook enrolled at Oklahoma State University to major in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering. As a freshman, he signed on with a research team at the university to study algae as a potential source for alternative fuel. "Algae can generate 15 times more oil per acre than plants currently used for biofuel," Holbrook says.



The May 2010 issue of *PROGRESSIVE FARMER* magazine featured Holbrook's involvement in alternative fuel research at the university. The article caught the attention of officials at Clearwater Enterprises near White Lake, NC, and they employed Holbrook to work in their Renewable Fuels Research Division. He spent this summer researching methods of producing algae continuously using 120,000 liter bio-reactors housed in a 200 foot greenhouse adjacent to a state-of-the-art laboratory.

Presently a sophomore at Oklahoma State University, Holbrook will continue his research in alternative fuels while remaining a consultant to Clearwater Enterprises in North Carolina.

A son of Flint and Beverly Holbrook of Clover, Holbrook's FFA advisor is Carrie C. Bolin, Agricultural Education instructor at Clover High School.

## SENECA FFA PRESIDENT FEATURED ON RFD-TV

**Hunter Eiland**, president of the Seneca High School FFA Chapter, was featured on the National RFD-TV Satellite Network in September on a program entitled *This Week in Agribusiness* hosted by legendary farm broadcasters Orion Samuelson and Max Armstrong. Hunter was in the special feature segment known as *Mas's Tractor Shed*. He was recognized for his interest in restoration of antique farm tractors as a part of his supervised agricultural experience program in Agricultural Education. His 1939 John Deere A tractor was highlighted on the show. The RFD-TV Network has a potential viewing audience of more than 40 million homes in the United States.



The son of Danny and Angie Capps, Hunter's FFA advisor is Christina Alexander, agricultural education instructor at Seneca High School.





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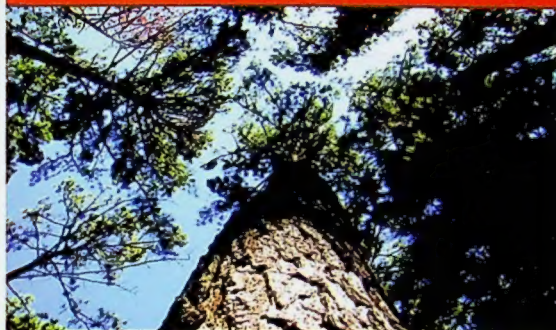
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